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Interest rates on subsidized loans set to double

Pastides advocates against 3.4 percent increase supported by Rep. Trey Gowdy

Cassie Cope
CCOPE@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

During the 2010-11 academic year, about 12,500 USC students borrowed a combined \$66 million in subsidized loans, according to Edgar Miller, USC’s director of student financial aid and scholarship. And unless Congress steps in, interest rates on these loans for undergraduate students will double for enrollment periods starting after July 1.

The interest rates will increase from the current 3.4 percent to 6.8 percent, the level they were in 2007 when an adjustment to the law was made to steadily reduce the rates over the course of four years, according to Miller.

Interest accrued on Stafford loans is paid for by the federal government while students are in school; however, students must pay any interest the loans collect after graduation. College students enrolled on at least a half-time basis qualify for these loans based on the financial need demonstrated on their Free Application

for Federal Student Aid, according to Miller. However, the doubled interest rates will only affect undergraduate students with subsidized loans because, according to staffordloan.com, the interest rates for graduate students with the loans is already at 6.8 percent.

The default rate for USC graduates who cannot pay back their student loans is 2 percent, compared to the national average of 8 percent, said Miller.

USC President Harris Pastides said the university is vocally advocating against increasing the interest rates. “I personally went to Washington, D.C., a couple of weeks ago and went to every single elected official’s office,” Pastides said, adding that he advocated a list of concerns on the university’s behalf, and that the interest rates were near the top of the list.

Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., said he supports the increased interest rates. As access to low-interest loans has increased, the cost of tuition has increased, Gowdy said in an email response provided by his communications director Josh Dix.

“Accordingly, students are borrowing more principal and paying a lower interest rate,” Gowdy said. “Clearly it would be better for students to pay a higher interest

rate yet on a smaller principal.”

Gowdy also said endowments are growing and salaries for nonacademic positions are increasing while tuition is growing exponentially.

“The key is to make education affordable from a tuition standpoint, not merely an interest rate standpoint,” Gowdy said.

Pastides said going to college is still expensive, even at the current interest rate, and that USC will account for the rate when deciding next year’s tuition. He echoed his State of the University address in emphasizing the need to keep tuition bumps as low as possible, and predicted that any increases at USC for next year will be more moderate than at peer universities like Florida, Georgia and North Carolina.

“I think the days of large tuition increases are over,” Pastides said. “They are for this university.”

Editor’s note: Colin Campbell and Rachel Dean contributed to this article.

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Parker Jennette / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Female cadets make up about 26 percent of the Army ROTC at the University of South Carolina.

‘We have the same expectations to live up to’

Two female cadets discuss ROTC duties, military futures

Kathryn Kranjc
KKRANJC@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Despite a long-standing association with men and military roles, women are anything but new to the armed forces.

They’ve served the United States both on and off the battlefield since 1775, originally as nurses, cooks and launderers,

performing tasks that weren’t assigned to uniformed personnel until the 20th century. But as women’s rights have expanded in the past century, so has their role in the military. Gone are the days when women disguised themselves as men in order to enlist as soldiers. Now, they proudly walk the streets in uniform, serving alongside men.

Students might see some of these women walking USC’s campus. Female cadets make up about 26 percent of the Army ROTC at USC, and seven of these women will commission as

full-fledged officers this year.

While each has her own reason for joining the Army, all of these servicewomen express the same desire to answer to “the call.” It’s a call that fourth-year interdisciplinary studies student and cadet Capt. Zipporah Torchon, who comes from a military family, never expected until after she graduated high school.

“My dad was in the Navy, my oldest sister is in the Air Force, my brother was in the Army and my youngest sister

ROTC ● 4

Annual festival includes parade, music, 5k race

About 40,000 people predicted to attend St. Pat’s in Five Points

Amanda Coyne
ACOYNE@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

The streets of downtown Columbia will flood with a sea of green Saturday as crowds flock to the annual St. Pat’s in Five Points festival.

The festival, now in its 29th year, will feature several attractions, including a race, a parade and more than 20 bands playing on four stages throughout the area.

Welcoming nearly 40,000 people each year, many people have purchased tickets in advance online and from nine Five Points businesses, including Qdoba and Yesterday’s Restaurant and Tavern, both of which have already sold out.

“We sell out every year ... We usually sell 2,000 tickets online and 8,000 at locations in Five Points,” said Merritt McHaffie, executive director of the Five Points Association. “When I checked in with Andy’s Deli at 4 p.m. (Thursday), they only had about 40 tickets left.” Tickets will also be sold at entrance gates for \$15.

While “a lot of people come for the party,” according to McHaffie, St. Pat’s in Five Points is designed to be an event for all who wish to attend. “It’s a big event, and we try to have something for all ages and something to appeal to a wide variety of people,” McHaffie said.

The day is packed with events many people can enjoy, kicking off with the Get to the Green 5k Run and 1 Mile Walk, with 2,200 runners and walkers already registered. All participants will receive free entry into the festival as well as a free T-shirt and St. Pat’s Troll Hair.

Gates to the festival officially open at 9 a.m.,

ST. PAT’S ● 4



File Photo

A limited number of tickets for St. Pat’s in Five Points on Saturday are available in advance for \$12.

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Nicole DeBartolo / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Prominent lawyer James Cooney opened a USC School of Law symposium Thursday.

Attorney discusses Duke case

Defense lawyer explains famed lacrosse trial

Caroline Baity
CBAITY@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Well-known defense attorney James Cooney opened the daylong USC School of Law symposium on wrongful convictions and prosecutorial ethics Thursday evening.

Cooney became known across the country in 2006 when he represented lacrosse player Reade Seligmann in the highly publicized Duke University rape case, in which he managed to absolve the defendants and obtain a rare statement of innocence for all three accused men.

In the opening speech of the symposium, Cooney took the audience through the major steps of the case and explained the process he used to help expose the unethical prosecutorial actions of former Durham, N.C., District Attorney Mike Nifong and prove the three defendants, all Duke lacrosse players, innocent of the rape that was fabricated by escort Crystal Mangum.

“For the first time the public got to see how the justice system operates,” Cooney said. “People did not like what they saw.”

The case surrounds Mangum and the three athletes, David Evans, Collin Finnerty and Reade Seligmann, whom

she accused of raping her in the lacrosse house in Durham. Prosecutor Nifong withheld and ignored evidence that would have vindicated the defendants, bringing the case to a screeching halt and leading to the eventual loss of his law license.

“It’s crazy how defendants are bashed and hated during a trial,” said Seth McDaniel, a second-year law student. “It was great to have Mr. Cooney here to take us step-by-step to show that a lot of these people are innocent and how they should be prosecuted.”

Cooney relied heavily on technology to prove the innocence of the defendants by using the phone records of the three men and Mangum. He proved that there was no point during the 11 p.m. to 1 a.m. time frame — when the rape supposedly occurred — when at least one of the individuals involved did not make a phone call. This was the main piece of evidence that proved Evans, Finnerty and Seligmann never had the opportunity to commit the crime.

“The types of skills we saw tonight aren’t those that you can learn in law school, and a lot of people don’t even learn them in practice,” said Sarah Rand, a third-year law student. “It was great to hear him go through and explain his process and why his clients were innocent.”

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DON'T JUST SIT THERE!

SO THIS IS THE DEAL

We’re trying to learn a little more about our readers, but we can’t do that without you. So, that means you could sit in class refreshing your Facebook page, or you could take five minutes and complete a survey. To sweeten the deal, we’re giving away some kick-ass prizes for a few lucky winners. We’re here for you, baby.

WEEKLY GIVEAWAYS

That’s right—every single week. No matter how you look at this, there’s a pretty good chance you’ll win something. We’re giving away tickets to shows at the Colonial Life Arena throughout the semester for **Professional Bull Riding**, **Michael Jackson: The Immortal World Tour by Cirque du Soleil**, and **WWE Smackdown**. Oh, and one more thing: The grand prize is a **Kindle Fire**.

We’re also giving away tons of Student Media swag—including T-shirts, hoodies, pint glasses and frisbees, as well as gift cards to the guys to the right.

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File Photo

ST. PAT'S ● Continued from 1

with the TD Bank Parade and Wells Fargo Children's Carnival starting at 10 a.m. and 11 a.m., respectively. The parade will begin at Dreher High school and march its way down Devine Street and Saluda Avenue, with 100 different units taking part.

"It's really a who's who of Columbia," McHaffie said. "Politicians, local businesses and sports groups are just a few."

Kids and their parents can also play on inflatable rides and interact with petting zoo animals at Martin Luther King Jr. Park on Pavillion Street at the Wells Fargo Children's Carnival. The carnival will also provide free food and drinks.

For those of legal drinking age, there will be a specialty beer garden on Saluda Avenue between the Budweiser/Free Times stage and the Direct Auto/WXRY 99.3 stage, two of the four stages on which bands including Hinder, Blackberry Smoke and Columbia natives Crossfade will play from noon until 6 p.m.

Shagging on Santee will also be held from noon until 6 p.m. and is sponsored by the South Carolina Education Lottery. Shag DJs from all over the Midlands will play while free shag and line dance lessons and demonstrations are given.

Guests are encouraged to drink responsibly, and Checker Yellow Cab and the Five Points Association have partnered to cover the first \$10 of a cab ride for any who need transportation.

Comments on this story?

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ROTC ● Cont. from 1

was in the Marine Corps," Torchon said. "Growing up, I always said I wasn't going to join the military, but I changed my mind at the last minute. People say some leaders are born and some are developed, so I guess I'm both the born and developed leader."

For Torchon's comrade, fourth-year criminal justice student and cadet Amanda Kenny, the Army had always seemed the right path to better herself and serve others. Since joining ROTC, she has found that path isn't always easy. For Kenny and Torchon, it has meant getting up at 5 a.m. for physical training three days a week, undergoing intense scrutiny and sometimes waiting rain-drenched on the side of the road after a long day of field drills. Though the demands are high, both agree they are necessary preparation for military life.

"It's definitely not for everyone because of the amount of discipline," Kenny said. "We're not a military institute, so our lives here aren't completely centered on ROTC, but it's still a big part of our lives that we have to dedicate."

That dedication is expected of all members — both male and female. While certain branches of the military remain exclusively male, Kenny says those restrictions are generally understood and that opportunities for women are equal across the board.

"I don't feel different or belittled being a female," Kenny said. "I think we fit in just as much as everyone else. Everyone looks after each other. We get the same level of respect, we have the same expectations to live up to, we have leadership positions we're put into and we're expected to do our job."

That expectation and respect come from civilians as well. When in uniform, Torchon has had restaurant tabs picked up for her, simply out of gratitude.

"People respect us; they know we're here to protect them and protect our country," Torchon said.

Being recognized, however, is not what draws these women to the Army. From interschool field drills at Fort Jackson to leadership training in Washington D.C., values-based relationships are formed between servicewomen stronger than even the oldest sororities in Greek Village.

"The camaraderie is something you can't find anywhere else," Kenny said. "You serve with someone, you just feel an immediate connection."

After graduation, the fourth-year commissioning students will move into their respective branches. Kenny will consider choosing a civilian career as a member of the National Guard, while Torchon is looking forward to transitioning into military intelligence as a full-time captain. Before venturing their separate ways, however, these two have one last memory to make — their last run of PT at Fort Jackson.

"We'll come to the fountain, and if you're about to commission, they'll pick someone to push you in. It's become a tradition at USC," Torchon said. "I'm looking forward to that day. Hopefully I get to push Kenny in."

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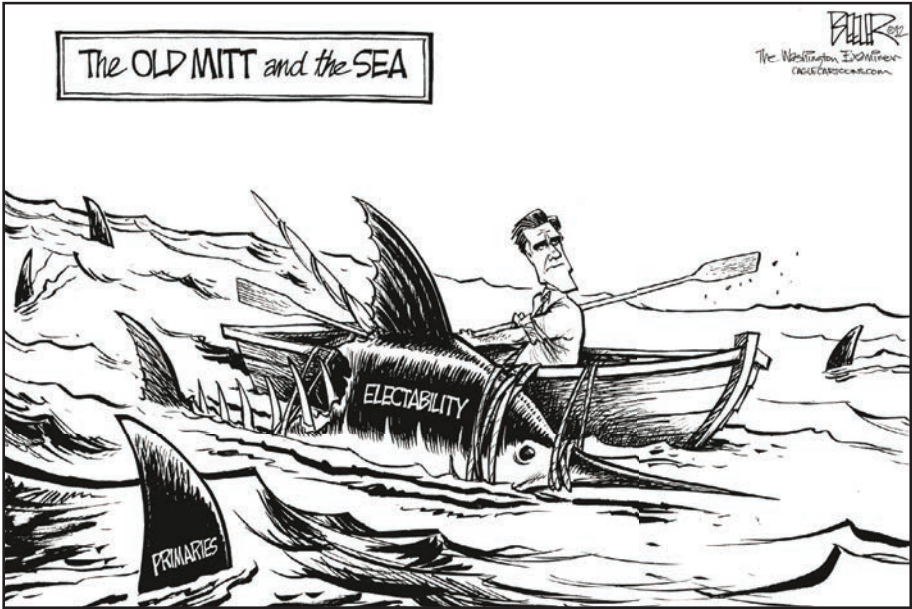
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Student debt to suffer from interest increase

Although the Great Recession officially ended in 2009, the legacy it left behind continues to pose problems for many Americans, students being first among them. A shrinking job market has resulted in fierce competition for every position, and our college diplomas, once prized so highly, have become little more than scraps of paper in the wind. College is an investment of much more than time; the price for a degree often saddles students with a mountain of debt that takes years to overcome. Recognizing this, the federal government dropped the interest rates of subsidized loans at the beginning of the Great Recession, seemingly in an attempt to keep education affordable for students. Those good times are apparently coming to a close, as the law authorizing those rate cuts will expire in July. The rates will return to their 2007 levels — a jump from 3.4 to 6.8 percent — if Congress does not act.

Now is not the time for such a large increase. Students are no more prepared now to pay these interest rates after graduating than they were five years ago. Furthermore, following Rep. Trey Gowdy’s comments supporting the increase, the argument that more needs to be done “from a tuition standpoint” appears to be a political cop-out. It is incredibly convenient for Gowdy that tuition rates are not something federal or state governments can usually legislate with anything resembling fairness — as our own state proves. If Congress refuses to extend this drop in interest rates, or at least agree to a gradual increase, then USC will see a student body forced to accept the growing costs of an education that originally promised to improve life, rather than cripple it with debt.



Rally invites church as publicity stunt

Atheists speak out against PR tactics

On March 24 in front of the Washington Monument, the largest group of secular and freethinking men and women in the nation’s history will gather together to celebrate reason as a central tenant of our country’s heritage. Following in the footsteps of Thomas Jefferson, Thomas Paine, Benjamin Franklin and other skeptics and freethinkers, the goal of the “Reason Rally” is threefold: to encourage secularists to “come out” and raise awareness; to dispel the stereotypes held by Americans of atheists; and to demonstrate the need for atheist-aware representatives in our nation’s governing bodies.

The organizers for the group, however, are as diverse as the secular community, and not everyone agrees. Jim Klawon of the National Atheist Party invited members of the Westboro Baptist Church to the rally to “come on out and join the fun.” As expected, the WBC’s Megan Phelps-Roper responded through Twitter and accepted the invitation with a friendly message to atheists: “How gracious of you! We accept your invitation & will picket your parade of fools 3/24.”

I don’t mind that Westboro Baptist Church will be attending. It provides an example of religion gone wrong, with people who unabashedly believe in the vitriol they spew out while claiming God’s name in the process. They represent part of the reason many

atheists are so against religion; this particular church’s actions take God as an excuse for extreme protests that insult and alienate Americans more than they contribute to our society’s discussion of pressing social issues. But members didn’t decide to come on their own; they were invited in what appears to be an ill-conceived public relations move.

This invitation ruffled more than a few feathers in the atheist community (mine included), providing a glimpse of something I find far more beautiful about secularism than sectarianism: the ability to hash out opinions on issues. Prominent atheists such as Matt Dillahunty voiced their concerns about the event after hearing about WBC’s invitation.

“If they’d have shown up on their own, THAT would have been something to talk about,” he wrote in response to a blog post on the Friendly Atheist, “but this is the rough equivalent of a movie studio hiring protesters to drum up advertising.”

I am inclined to agree. Inviting a hate group to attend a reason-oriented rally was an unreasonable move.

This sort of division over methodology is common in the secular camp, and rather than creating a new denomination, movement or “faith,” we hash it out. We yell, type, blog and call each other, then often agree to disagree. And I love it.

The modern atheist movement is fairly young and is still trying to organize itself. This means that those of us on the front lines are a part of shaping the movement’s directions, goals and image. It makes me proud to be a part of this movement and proud to be in partnership with people I disagree with.

Obama poorly handles crises in Afghanistan

Tension could cost president re-election

With the general election rapidly approaching, President Barack Obama will have to answer some pretty tough questions to protect his incumbency. The issue that could prove most detrimental to Obama’s re-election is also the most recent — the United States’ decade-old war in Afghanistan, which is now spiraling out of control.

President Hamid Karzai demanded Thursday that troops be confined to major military bases by next year after the Taliban suspended peace talks with the U.S. This week in Afghanistan has

been one of the worst for U.S. forces, after the massacre of 16 Afghan citizens in Kandahar by an American soldier. Given the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan, serious doubts are being cast on Obama’s effectiveness as a diplomatic and military leader.

The Kandahar massacre has hurt America’s international image. Around the world, our country does not appear to be the shining star we think it is. Around the world, our country appears to be an arrogant, violent and self-righteous nation.

As Americans, it’s hard to give up on something. Yet there are just some things we cannot control. When we do try to control them, it creates a nastier situation.

The only way Obama can win the re-election is to convince Americans that he is the peace candidate, which will be a truly daunting task. I think this would be a pretty good time to earn that Nobel Peace Prize, Mr. President.



Stephen Barry
Second-year broadcast journalism student

Primaries threaten to split Republican Party

Delegate numbers indicate GOP may be unable to unify for election

What is going on with the Republican Party primaries? As Rick Santorum, Ron Paul and Newt Gingrich continually complicating things for Mitt Romney with each additional primary election, it seems as if this selection process is becoming more and more of a frothy mess.

While Romney still maintains 495 party delegates against Santorum, Gingrich and Paul’s respective 252, 131 and 48, the combined total of delegates that do not support him totals 431 — giving him a very slim lead of 64 delegates.

Essentially, there are nearly as many Republican primary voters who support Romney as there are who don’t. Romney is certainly the favored candidate by the Republican establishment, but this systemic lack of support from the Republican voter base shows uncertainty over whether the governor could win a general election.

The continued resistance against Romney in the primaries by the Republican constituents also raises the possibility of a party split, likely between a candidate for economic issues and a candidate for social conservatism. This split appears most likely to occur with Romney as the business candidate, and with Santorum or Gingrich representing the interests of the social conservatives. A split like this would not only put different groups of conservatives against one another, but could also lead to geographical splits, with different regions tending to promote one of the issues over another. Conservative Democrats and independents could also move toward one of the split candidates. This could

very well redraw the unofficial electoral map as we know it, upending our current red and blue state balance.

And what of Paul? Should he decide to lend his support to either side, it would certainly help. Paul’s

popularity among young adults and college students may not be well represented by the number of delegates he currently controls, but would be reflected in actual voter turnout in the general election should he run or publicly encourage his supporters to fall behind another candidate. Paul’s potential support among independent voters is also not reflected in his primary performance thus far and would certainly serve to his benefit in November. Were he to consider running as a third-party candidate, he could do serious damage to Romney’s support.

The length and tenacity of this primary conflict is not serving to strengthen the Republican Party’s odds in the general election, since the different blocs within the party are rallying around the candidates who best reflect their interests. As a result, with every inconclusive round of primary elections, the likelihood of some kind of party split increases. Animosity within the party has the potential for reaching a level that, while aiding the overall political process by encouraging wider participation, will hinder the party in the long run.



Mason Smith
First-year international business student

IT’S YOUR RIGHT

The goal of The Daily Gamecock’s Viewpoints page is to stimulate discussion in the University of South Carolina community.

All published authors are expected to provide logical arguments to back their views.

The Daily Gamecock encourages readers to voice opinions and offers three methods of expression: letters to the editor, guest columns and feedback on dailygamecock.com.

Letters and guest columns should be submitted via email to gamecockeditor@sc.edu. Letters must be 200 to 300 words in length

and include the author’s name, year in school and area of study.

We also invite student leaders and USC faculty members to submit guest columns. Columnists should keep submissions to about 500 words in length and include the author’s name and position.

The editor reserves the right to edit and condense submissions for length and clarity, or not publish at all.

All submissions become the property of The Daily Gamecock and must conform to the legal standards of USC Student Media.

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The Daily Gamecock is the editorially independent student newspaper of the University of South Carolina. It is published daily during the fall and spring semesters and nine times during the summer with the exception of university holidays and exam periods. Opinions expressed in The Daily Gamecock are those of the editors or author and not those of the University of South Carolina. The Board of Student Publications and Communications is the publisher of The Daily Gamecock. The Department of Student Media is the newspaper’s parent organization. The Daily Gamecock is supported in part by student-activity fees. One free copy per reader. Additional copies may be purchased for \$1 each from the Department of Student Media.

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Offices located on the third floor of Russell House

EDITOR
gamecockeditor@sc.edu
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sagcknew@mailbox.sc.edu
VIEWPOINTS
sagckvew@mailbox.sc.edu

Newsroom:
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Sports:
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THE MIX
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SPORTS
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ONLINE

Editor’s office:
777-3914
Fax:
777-6482

Sweet Bites

Austin Price
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Cafe Strudel

West Columbia eatery offers twist on breakfast

Just across the river sits a brightly painted yellow and blue cafe, nestled neatly in line with the other buildings along State Street.

Its name is Cafe Strudel, and since opening in 1997, it has become a not-so-secret place for locals to stop in for a bite to eat.

Owner Trip Turbyfill started the cafe with his wife and another business partner in a much smaller 600-square-foot building. After three years, the need for more space became apparent, and Cafe Strudel moved to its current location in West Columbia.

To place Cafe Strudel's eats into one category is difficult, as the restaurant seems to specialize in almost all types of food and drink. Initially offering mostly coffee and desserts, the restaurant's menu has grown to include a full array of soups, sandwiches and salads, as well as breakfast served all day and the cafe's popular Sunday brunch.

Turbyfill said the focus is on good quality and offering food with a spin.

“We put some different things together that you don't normally have,” Turbyfill said.

He also emphasized that the food is made fresh, and much of it with local ingredients.

All of the soups and all but a couple of the salad dressings are made from scratch.

The cafe has become known for its “world famous” Hangover Hash Browns. With banana peppers, grilled onions, tomatoes, cheddar cheese and eggs, this potato dish definitely strays from tradition.

STRUDEL ● 7



Photos by Austin Price / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Located on State Street, Cafe Strudel serves breakfast all day. It offers more than 30 variations of tea and coffee and is known for its hash browns.

Oysters, art mix at museum

Contemporaries host outdoor block party

Brant Fortenberry
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Wednesday evening was a night of good

food, great beer and even better conversation for the Columbia Museum of Art's Contemporaries.

The art museum's young professional affiliate brings together those in their mid-20s and early 30s to share

their common interest in art. Dues are paid yearly, which helps procure art for the museum along with other necessities, such as the chandelier in the museum's lobby. Members enjoy events like oyster roasts,

the Black and White Ball, wine tastings, Arts & Draughts and awards ceremonies each year. Along with these events, Contemporaries are offered special tours of the museum after closing hours and different seminars on painting, collecting and other artistic interests. Director Shigeharu Kobayashi said these events are put together not only to provide fun for members, but also to show that “art can be enjoyable and not stuffy,” as some may perceive.

At 5:30 p.m., Kobayashi kicked off the fifth annual oyster roast at Boyd Plaza in front of the museum. The weather remained uncharacteristically warm with a summer breeze — atypical for a March evening. Whiskey Tango Revue, a local alternative country band, provided live music while members and nonmembers of the Contemporaries started to file in. The band played original catchy tunes as well as covers of popular songs, like Outfield's “Your Love.” The music had a smooth, mellow feel, which, mixed with the smell of brine and beer in the

Columbia Museum of Art Contemporaries
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14
5:30 – 7:30 PM

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For More Information: ColumbiaContemporaries.com

Courtesy of facebook.com

Columbia Museum of Art's Contemporaries hosts a variety of social events annually.

OYSTERS ● 8

from GAME

Everything you need to know about this week in arts and entertainment

Kristyn Winch
KWINCH@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

SXSW kicks off with host of hilariously named bands

Festivalgoers can rock out to the sounds of Nguzunguzu, Prizehog and Two Cow Garage, among others.



Courtesy of sxsw.com



Courtesy of thefiv.com

Stefon finally kisses Seth Myers

Bill Hader's fictional “Saturday Night Live” city correspondent gave “Weekend Update” more than just a rundown of New York's hottest clubs this week.

Off-Broadway revival of “Carrie” musical gets rave reviews

It's a good thing the theater critics weren't “out for blood” like they were for the 1988 original.



Courtesy of broadway.com



Courtesy of MCTCampus

“Lorax” tops box office for second consecutive week

I guess the 99 percent wanted to share anti-capitalism views with their children.

John Mayer cancels tour due to vocal problems

Although he will still release his new album in May, the singer is waiting on his throat to change before hitting the road again.



Courtesy of MCTCampus



Courtesy of lastfm

M.I.A. fires off at Anderson Cooper on Twitter

The news anchor replied, “I don't even know who you are,” proving I'm not the only one who finds her popularity declining.

“Idol” contestant disqualified over arrest warrants

It turns out Jermaine Jones, the man “American Idol” nicknamed a “gentle giant,” isn't so harmless after all.



Courtesy of americanidol.com

STRUDEL ● Continued from 6



Austin Price / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Cafe Strudel's menu features an array of desserts, including a variety of strudels.

Along with the hash browns, the breakfast menu also offers many other items, including bagels, cinnamon pancakes and a breakfast quesadilla.

In addition to the all-day breakfast, Sunday brunch has become a specialty of Cafe Strudel's. Brunch is served from 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. on Sundays, offering a slightly altered breakfast menu.

"That's turned into one of our big things," Turbyfill said of the Sunday brunch.

Coffee was a main focus for the cafe when it started out, and Cafe Strudel has remained true to its roots. The menu offers various coffee and espresso drinks, along with more than 30 varieties of hot teas and specialty drinks, including an Arnold Palmer and hot apple cider.

The restaurant features an extensive beer and wine menu as well, which is available each day of the week except Sunday.

The menu also offers a variety of soups, salads and sandwiches perfect for any meal. These items, like most at Cafe Strudel, are traditional favorites served with a twist of local flavor. Sandwiches range from a classic BLT to a cranberry turkey baguette and the Martino — a turkey and cheddar sandwich served on a sweet, dark wheat loaf.

From the menu to the building and its atmosphere, Cafe Strudel

prides itself on being a locally owned establishment.

"People like a local place they can come [to]," Turbyfill said.

Inside, the mismatched chairs and quirky decorations create a relaxed and fun atmosphere that adds to the local feel of the restaurant.

Local music acts also perform at the cafe. Turbyfill said he hopes to bring in more talent from around Columbia to play at the establishment.

"We're going to try and do some more singer/songwriters who come and perform their own music that they wrote," Turbyfill said.

Along with a variety of quality food and live music, Turbyfill said the restaurant's success has been based on keeping customers coming back. The cafe gets much of its business from USC students and locals who return for the cafe's original take on classic food.

Cafe Strudel is located at 118 State St. in West Columbia and is open Monday through Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Thursday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. and for Sunday brunch from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

With a fun atmosphere, live music and a unique twist on food, Cafe Strudel is a great place to go for some sweet bites.

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Dr. Rocco’s reopens with new owner

Five Points bar undergoes name change, building renovation

Julianne Lewis
MIX@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Dr. Rocco’s, a bar in Five Points of Columbia, reopened on Thursday under new ownership. Bradley Morgan, who graduated from USC in December with a degree in marketing and entrepreneurship, had always dreamed of owning a bar and grill. Purchasing and renovating Dr. Rocco’s was the perfect opportunity for Morgan to realize his goal. The bar will reopen under the name Breakers Bar & Grill, and will feature quite a few changes.

“Phase One” of his construction plan included repainting, fixing the glass on the outside of the building, updating interior design and completing a number of behind-the-scenes plumbing and electrical fixes.

He will work on “Phase Two” throughout the summer, which will increase capacity and introduce a canopy over the patio. Currently,

maximum capacity allows 49 people inside the bar. He hopes to secure the permits to allow more people inside.

The bar will still serve its famous grain alcohol slushies, and may even call them “Rocco’s slushies” in honor of the former name. Morgan also added draft beer to the drink menu.

Starting in April, Breakers Bar & Grill will also serve food. Morgan said his father, Randy Morgan; his uncle, Kyle Taylor; and Gilligan’s owner Randy Marvin have been instrumental in the process.

“I’m really excited for everyone to see it,” Morgan said. “It’s going to be a 180-degree difference.”

Morgan said the most difficult task as the new owner was coming up with a name for the bar. His friends and family made him a list of possibilities, but he liked Breakers Bar & Grill the most.

The bar has added more staff, and has kept many of the bouncers and bartenders.

Morgan began searching for potential properties over the summer. After purchasing Dr. Rocco’s, he limited his class load in the fall to devote his time to the bar and its construction plan.

“This is something I’ve known I wanted to do for a long time,” Morgan said. “Once I turned 21, we created a game plan. If this goes well, it won’t be the only bar we open.”

Construction started the Sunday before spring break, and has been continuing nonstop since.

Morgan is excited to open the bar in time for Columbia’s annual St. Pat’s in Five Points festival, which he hopes will help draw a crowd.

OYSTERS ● Continued from 6

air, gave the event a beachy vibe.

An eclectic mix of people of all ages attended this event — some dressed in shorts and T-shirts, while others showed up in full business attire. It was a time for college students, professionals and local art lovers to talk and enjoy each other’s company. People were soon standing shoulder to shoulder, gathered around four tables, oyster knives in hand, awaiting the first pile of oysters to hit the table.

After the first drop of oysters, the search was on to find a spot for those who did not arrive early. People squeezed into the tiniest of spots just to get a few oysters. No one seemed bothered by the lack of personal space, though. In fact, everyone appeared to know everyone else, creating a friendly, fun and relaxed atmosphere.

The event was free to Contemporaries members and cost \$10 for nonmembers. The price included all-you-can-eat steamed oysters and bottomless beer. This roast was an appreciation event for the Contemporaries members. The oysters were provided by Columbia’s Oyster Bar, which showcased its own “Mother Shucker’s Cocktail Sauce.” The event was also sponsored by Mosquito Squad and WXYR.

Overall, the event was a success. Everyone seemed to be having a good time, swaying to the evening’s sound track of friendly chatter and alternative country tunes. After nearly two hours, the guests seemed satisfied with their fill of mollusks, and the parade of steamed oysters slowed down. The guests began to slowly leave, humming Whisky Tango Revue songs and basking in the unseasonable weather that was more than perfect for this event.

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ACROSS
1 Baroque composer of the "Goldberg Variations"
5 Civil rights activist
9 Online money
14 Hairdo that's picked
15 Barely manages, with "out"
16 "I'm not kidding!"
17 Corner Monopoly space
18 "Strikers' formation
20 Soldiers' shelter
22 Most restricted, filmwise
23 TV oil family name
24 Thoroughfare
25 Volcanic rock
27 Futuristic personal transport devices
31 "Filthy" money
32 Pastrami seller
33 Former Mideast leader
34 Were in the present?
35 "Severe reprimand, in metaphor
38 Simpson judge
39 Indian breads
41 Prehistoric threat, for short
42 Kate's TV roommate
44 Pollution legislation goal
46 13-piece suit?
47 Tenn. athletes
48 Train schedule listings
49 "I, Claudius" star
52 Not draw any cards
55 1963 hit for the Drifters ... or where you can see the ends of the starred answers
57 Mixed bag
58 Demander's words
59 "Othello" conspirator
60 Fund-raising dinner, often
61 Like pocket

Solutions from 03/15/12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15				16				
17				18				19				
20				21				22				
		23					24					
25	26					27				28	29	30
31						32				33		
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5	3			1			7	9
				9				
	8		6		7		4	
1	5	9						
		8				7		
						1	5	2
	4		3		2			
				5				
3	7			9			2	5

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9.

Solution for 03/15/12

8	4	2	1	3	9	6	5	7
1	7	6	5	8	2	4	9	3
3	9	5	6	7	4	8	1	2
2	5	1	8	4	6	7	3	9
7	6	3	2	9	1	5	8	4
9	8	4	3	5	7	2	6	1
6	1	7	9	2	5	3	4	8
5	2	8	4	1	3	9	7	6
4	3	9	7	6	8	1	2	5

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USC hits road for first SEC series

Baseball leans on pitching in preparing for undefeated Kentucky

Isabelle Khurshudyan
 IKHURSHUDYAB@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

In preparation for South Carolina's first true road series of the season, pitcher Michael Roth told the team's newcomers to learn from the mistake he made on his first trip to Lexington, Ky.

"I just told them to pack pretty heavily, because my freshman year when we went, they said the weather was supposed to be great, and it snowed on Sunday during pregame infield," Roth said. "I wasn't prepared, so I just told them to pack pretty heavily. We're just trying to go get lucky in Kentucky."

The Gamecocks have needed more than luck to enter their first SEC series with a 15-1 record, as they've leaned on a pitching staff that will look to battle unusual conditions against the undefeated Wildcats.

Statistically, the two clubs are comparable in pitching, though USC has an edge in most categories. Kentucky leads the nation in strikeouts per nine innings. In strikeouts to walks, USC has 162 to 35, while Kentucky has 178 to 46. In ERA, South Carolina has an edge with 1.73, while the Wildcats' average is 3.00. The Gamecocks have allowed fewer runs and hits.

While Kentucky's nonconference schedule has been about as challenging as getting into a home basketball game at USC, South Carolina coach Ray Tanner is still wary of facing a confident team on the road.

"They are one of those teams that are better at home than they are on the road, at least with my experience with Kentucky," Tanner said. "They're talented and maybe they haven't played the toughest schedule in the country, but they've played good opponents and they've played them close — they've won some games with their bats."

Tanner likes to combat the bats with the bullpen in matching situations, such as playing a left-handed pitcher for left-handed hitters, which is "unconventional across the board in college baseball." Tanner also doesn't want to push his starters too far and use the bullpen to win games.

"That's why we won most of our games," Tanner said.

With the new, more woodlike bats, first baseman Christian Walker has been happy with the offense, as the Gamecocks have averaged slightly more than five runs per game. Walker calls that a good offensive day,



Chris Keohane / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC first baseman Christian Walker said the strong pitching gives him momentum when he gets up to the plate.

but said the pitching gives the hitters momentum at the plate.

"It takes a lot of pressure off, knowing you don't have to put two or three every inning to win a game," Walker said. "Even though we like scoring runs and giving our pitchers some pad to work with, at the same time it's good to know that they're there and they've got our backs. You can win a game 2-0 or 2-1 and not have to worry about it."

Roth said since most of the pitchers are veterans, they "expect to do well, no matter what." They also take on the role of helping the young players along, especially with the middle infield starting six different players this season.

Though Tanner said the team isn't where he would have wanted it to be by this point in the season, he said he would've taken a 14-2 record going into the series with Kentucky, so he's happy with the 15-1 mark. Furthermore, he knows his team could have embarked on the trip to Kentucky with an entirely different

record, as the Gamecocks have played seven one-run games this season, only being on the losing end of one against Clemson.

"That's the good thing about this team — you never really hit the panic button," Walker said. "No matter how much we're down or how much we're up, we still play the same ... If anything, we're always comfortable. It's a great quality to have as a team, and it's going to win you a lot of games."

The Gamecocks are hoping for favorable weather to help them win this weekend's series. No snow is scheduled to fall, but scattered thunderstorms are in the forecast for Friday and Saturday. And while the trip to Kentucky always presents challenges, there is one thing USC also enjoys there.

"I'm kind of pumped for the Jacuzzi bathtubs they have in the hotel," center fielder Evan Marzilli said.

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Richard Pearce / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Spring practice, Day 2

Return of Kenny Miles still uncertain in depleted running game

Kyle Heck
 KHECK@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

At the conclusion of the second spring practice, Kenny Miles still didn't have a definite decision on whether he is staying for his senior year. Miles once again practiced with the rest of the team, which his teammates see as an encouraging sign.

"I don't know why he would be out here practicing if he wasn't staying," sophomore quarterback Connor Shaw said.

As long as Miles continues to attend practice, new running backs coach Everette Sands will continue to treat him as if he is staying.

"I really haven't gotten a definitive answer, but he's doing everything that we've asked him to do and he's out here right now, so we are excited to have him," Sands said. "He is truly one of our leaders, and I think he realizes that he is in the best shape of his life right now."

Miles won several awards during the offseason for his work in the weight room, which has paid off for him so far. According to Sands, Miles shaved .2 seconds off his 40-yard dash time, reportedly going from a 4.71 to a 4.52.

If Miles does decide to stay, he will join a crowded backfield that will also be getting Marcus Lattimore

back during the summer.

"He is running straight ahead — no change of direction or anything like that yet — but he is doing good," Sands said of Lattimore. "He's about a week ahead of schedule, and he should be ready to go when those guys get ready during the last week of May and the first week of June."

During spring practice thus far, however, the backfield is far from crowded as Shon Carson joins Lattimore on the injury list. Freshman Brandon Wilds has been sharing some time with Miles, but Sands was forced to move linebacker Qua Gilchrist to fullback.

"They got every rep on Tuesday, which was a little much, so we just had to do something to give them a little break," Sands said of Wilds and Miles. "I'm expecting a lot out of Brandon; I think his best days are ahead of him."

A walk-on has emerged this spring in the form of Dwayne Duckett, who, according to USC coach Steve Spurrier, can play wide receiver and running back.

"He's running around out here pretty well," Spurrier said.

A local product has also impressed Spurrier. Walk-on punter Michael Williamson had some punts that, as Spurrier put it, "were some of the best looking kicks that I've seen on this field in a long time."

Former stars make appearances: Some former USC players took advantage

of the NFL offseason to watch practice. Chris Culliver (49ers), Cliff Matthews (Falcons) and Patrick DiMarco (Chargers), as well as Travian Robertson and Terrance Campbell, who are awaiting draft day, were all present.

"Those guys are always encouraged to come around," Spurrier said. "John Wooden once said that if you do a good job as a coach, then your players will want to come back and hang around the team."

Gamecocks will bring out full pads today: The team will experience its first real contact in months at today's 4:15 p.m. practice. Spurrier told reporters after practice that the Gamecocks will try and play in front of fans so they can "come out and watch some of the big guys bump heads."

In addition, the team will be holding a youth day for kids in Columbia at 11 a.m. April 14, a day before the spring game. The Boys and Girls Club will be invited, along with other youth groups, and Spurrier mentioned that Lattimore and former players Alshon Jeffery and Melvin Ingram will be speaking.

Clowney returns: Freshman defensive end Jadeveon Clowney returned to the practice field after missing Tuesday's practice due to academic issues.

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'We all we got, we all we need'

Gamecocks ready for NCAA Tourney

Isabelle Khurshudyan
 IKHURSHUDYAN@DAILYGAMECOCK.COM

Senior guard La'Keisha Sutton came up with a motto for the South Carolina women's basketball team that USC coach Dawn Staley believes has helped the team get to where it is now: "We all we got, we all we need."

"I think the motto does help," Staley said. "I think it helps refocus them. It really takes the onus off personalizing it or individualizing it because it's a 'we' in front of everything that's in that line. I think they really take that to heart because one person doesn't have to shoulder the success or the failure of our basketball team."

With the team's first NCAA Tournament game since Staley took over as coach, the Gamecocks have turned the focus to improving as a team before Saturday's matchup against No. 12 Eastern Michigan. And while there's time for the team to be excited about its first tournament bid, preparation has been noticeably more intense.

"We've been going hard," senior Charenee Stephens said. "I think Coach is in a different mindset. We haven't been here as a team and she hasn't been there with us, so we're just going hard. We're playing our game, and we're just trying to make some noise."

Part of the focus has been blocking out the outside distractions, as classmates and professors have congratulated the team. USC President Harris Pastides came to speak to the team at practice. Point guard Bruce Ellington, who participated on the scout team, also joined the Gamecocks.

According to Sutton, the team is happy for the attention, as women's basketball has noticeably picked up in fan following, but added, "We want to do more than just be in the tournament — we want to win games."

Part of what has helped the Gamecocks win games to this point has been the shooting threat of Sutton and fellow senior

guard Markeshia Grant, both of whom earned All-SEC honorable mention from the Associated Press.

"I think they play off one another extremely well," Staley said. "Both of them are able to shoot the 3-ball. La'Keisha, more than Markeshia, is able to drive and find other people, so a lot of times, Markeshia is a recipient of La'Keisha's penetration. They've been pretty solid, and I think that's why we've been able to be as successful as we've been this particular season."

The game against Eastern Michigan will be an interesting one for Sutton, who will be pitted against her cousin Miranda Tate. Tate played for the Gamecocks in her freshman season before transferring to Eastern Michigan. Sutton said the two have been reminiscing on their freshman year since they found out they'd be reunited this week.

"It's going to be pretty exciting," Sutton said. "I haven't seen her since she left and we've been talking, so I'm excited to see her, but at the same time, I'm focused on the game."

Stephens said the assistant coaches watched the tape on Eastern Michigan as soon as they found out USC would be pitted against them. Since then, Sutton said the emphasis has been on their ability in transition and stopping their leading scorer, Tavelyn James.

With the senior class waiting four years to go to the NCAA Tournament, the sense of urgency isn't anything new, as the team has felt that urgency from the start of the season.

"The entire time we've been here, we've been putting work in just for this moment," Stephens said. "Coming in here senior year, I think me and La'Keisha and other seniors, we really thought that it could happen. That's what you have to do — you have to believe and know that if you put that work in and you put that time in, then anything can happen."

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